This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

171315Z Jan 05

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000256

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EFIN ETTC PTER PREL KU
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DEPT CLARIFICATION OF ALLEGED REPORT ON KUWAITI CHARITIES

¶1. This is an action request: please see para 3.

¶2. On December 31, 2004, the Arabic newspaper Al-Watan alleged that a U.S. Department of State report exonerated all Kuwaiti charities of support for terrorism (informal translation in para 3). The story was subsequently repeated in other publications (including two opinion pieces by Islamist commentators, who used the report's alleged conclusions to bolster their attacks on Kuwaiti liberals). Post's public affairs section has received numerous inquiries about this supposed report, and we understand that the Kuwaiti DCM in Washington has approached the Department to verify the article's veracity. To our knowledge, at least one Kuwaiti charity remains designated under E.O. 13224 and is included on the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee's consolidated list.

¶3. ACTION REQUEST. Post requests that the Department confirm the existence or non-existence of such a U.S. Government report, so that we may respond accordingly.

¶4. BEGIN ARTICLE.

Al-Watan newspaper
December 31, 2004
By Khalil Khalaf

"Monies from Kuwaiti charities are indeed directed toward good works.8 This is the result, or the exoneration, which Kuwait received from the Department of State through a detailed report. Informed sourced confirmed to Al-Watan that authoritative parties in Kuwait received a detailed report from the State Department regarding follow-up and monitoring of money donations and collections for charitable activities in Kuwait and parties overseas which receive these donations.

The American report exonerated Kuwaiti charitable entities from any suspicions related to support of terrorist groups or having any sort of links to terrorism. The report indicated that monies from Kuwaiti charities are, in reality, directed towards good deed activities and spent on aiding orphans, the poor, and the needy. The money is also utilized to build mosques and to dig wells, etc.

A government source praised the cooperation of Kuwaiti charitable institutions to Al-Watan and noted his appreciation for the results. END ARTICLE.
LEBARON